CHAPTER 1

THE COMMISSION GETS ITS FIRST SHOCK

No sooner had the Commission investigating President Kennedy's assassination assembled its staff and tentatively outlined methods of operation than it was plunged into an astounding problem. On Wednesday, January 22, the members of the Commission were hurriedly called into emergency session by the chairman, Mr. J. Lee Rankin, newly appointed General Counsel for the Commission, had received a telephone call from Texas. The caller was Mr. Waggoner Carr, the Attorney General of Texas. The information was that the FBI had an 'undercover agent' and that that agent was none other than Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin of President Kennedy!

Prior to that day the newspapers had carried an inconspicuous article or two speculating on whether Oswald could have been an agent of any United States Government agency. Mrs. Marguerite Oswald had made statements that she thought her son must have been tied in with the CIA or the State Department, but now the alarm had been sounded by a high official and the Dallas prosecutor, Mr. Henry Wade, who had also reported the rumor, was himself a former FBI man.

Individual members of the Commission got their first inkling of the seriousness of Carr's report when they met in emergency session late in the afternoon of the twenty-second of January. Each had received an urgent message to come at 5:30 P.M. to the Commission's offices in the